

Applicant : Scott D. Wilde
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REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed June 18, 2007. Reconsideration is respectfully requested for the following reason.

Allowance of claims 1-20 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 22-24 and 27-31 were objected but were indicated to be allowable if properly rewritten in independent form to include the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 22 and 27 have been rewritten in this manner. Claims 23-24 are dependent on claim 22 and claims 28-31 are dependent on claim 27. Accordingly, claims 22-24 and 27-31 are now believed to be in condition for allowance based on the recent Office Action.

Claim 21 was rejected as obvious over Lehman 5,853,348 in view of Krüger 5,887,694; claim 25 was rejected as anticipated by Krüger 5,887,694; claims 25, 26, and 32 were rejected as anticipated over Faloon 3,824,948; and claim 33 was rejected as unpatentable over Faloon in view of Krüger.

The rejection of these claims is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 21 defines a shifter including, among other things, a shift lever movably mounted to a base, the shift lever movable between a drive gear position, a combined PARK/NEUTRAL gear position and a REVERSE gear position . . . but not being movable to a separate PARK gear position. The shifter also has an input device operably connected to the shift lever for shifting between a PARK gear position and a NEUTRAL gear position when the shift lever is in the PARK/NEUTRAL gear position. Neither Lehman nor Krüger disclose nor suggest any such arrangement. Specifically, Lehman and Kruger both teach a shifter movable to park, neutral, and other gear positions.

Accordingly, claim 21 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 25 was rejected as anticipated by Krüger 5,887,694 and further rejected as anticipated by Faloon 3,824,948. These rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 25 defines a shifter including, among other things, a shift member movable to a plurality of gear positions for control of a transmission and including a pawl for controlling movement between the gear positions, an indicator on the shift member having a visual display

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indicating what gear the transmission is in, and a pawl control button on the shifter for controlling movement of the pawl. The shift member includes a grip with a top end surface having the pawl control button therein and having the indicator therein adjacent the pawl control button, with positions of the pawl control button and the indicator allowing the pawl control button and indicator to both be seen simultaneously from a position generally over the shift member. Krüger and Faloon both disclose handle devices with small top end surfaces. There is no room in them for a button and a display, . . . unless the button is made so small as to be non-functional or easily damaged, and unless the display is made so small as to be unreadable or easily damaged. Notably, the small top end surfaces in Kruger and Faloon are largely taken up by the button (Kruger) or display (Faloon), such that there isn't sufficient room for any such arrangement as defined. Kruger positions his indication of gear position on a side of his handle due in part to this lack of room on an end of the Kruger handle. Faloon doesn't include a button on its end at all.

Accordingly, independent claim 25 and dependent claims 26 and 32-33 are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, all claims are allowed or allowable or are believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice of allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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